

## Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOL REPEAT BANGKOK 18990 SENT ACTION SECSTATE  
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QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 18990

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: US COOPERATION/ASSISTANCE IN SELECTIVE FOREIGN DRUG ABUSE  
PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 254205

1. WE BELIEVE THAT A U.S. PROGRAM TO ASSIST THAI DRUG PREVENTION  
ACTIVITIES IS AN EXCESSIVE IDEA AND THAT IT WOULD REINFORCE OUR  
NARCOTICS PROGRAM. WHILE WE ARE NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO  
PROPOSE SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND APPROXIMATE COSTS, WE CAN DESCRIBE A  
NUMBER OF WAYS IN WHICH WE COULD MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE ALREADY EXISTING THAI PROGRAMS WITH RELATIVELY MODEST  
EXPENDITURE.

2. THANYARAK HOSPITAL, ABOUT 30 KILOMETERS NORTH OF BANGKOK, IS THE  
MAJOR TREATMENT FACILITY IN THAILAND. THIS 500 BED HOSPITAL IS RUN  
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BY THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND DR. SOMSONG KANCHANAHUTA IS

THE DIRECTOR. PHRA MONGKUT KLAO HOSPITAL, A ROYAL THAI ARMY FACILITY, ALSO HAS A SMALL BUT WELL-RUN DRUG TREATMENT DEPARTMENT UNDER DR. AROON SHOWANASSI, WHO ATTENDED THE MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON DRUG ABUSE EARLIER THIS YEAR. DR. AROON MAINTAINS 45 BEDS FOR DRUG PATIENTS AND HOLDS TWO OUT-PATIENT CLINICS A WEEK. HE HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED A SMALL REHABILITATION AND FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM AND AN EDUCATION PROGRAM. DR. AROON'S MAIN WARD IS IN A BUILDING THAT WAS CONDEMNED FOR DESTRUCTION, BUT THROUGH PRIVATE DONATIONS HE WAS ABLE TO REPAIR IT AND KEEP IT RUNNING. THERE ARE ALSO SMALL TREATMENT FACILITIES IN THE PROVINCES OF LAMPANG, KHON KAEN AND SONGKHLA AND SEVERAL PRIVATE DRUG TREATMENT CENTERS IN THAILAND.

3. THE DIMENSION OF THE ADDICTION PROBLEM IN THAILAND REQUIRE AN EXPANSION OF EXISTING TREATMENT FACILITIES. THERE IS A LONG WAITING LIST AT DR. AROON'S TREATMENT CENTER. PROVINCIAL TREATMENT CENTERS ARE ESPECIALLY POOR. THE 20 BED LAMPANG ADDICT REHABILITATION

CENTER, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS NO DOCTOR AND HAS A WAITING LIST FOR ADMISSION NUMBERING 282. IF FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE WE WOULD IDENTIFY SPECIFIC PROJECTS WE COULD SUPPORT TO IMPROVE BOTH THE CAPABILITIES OF THE TREATMENT CENTERS AND THE QUALITY OF TREATMENT.

4. REHABILITATION: ALL THAIS INVOLVED IN DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT IDENTIFY REHABILITATION AND FOLLOW-UP AS A MAJOR WEAKNESS IN EXISTING PROGRAMS. SELECTIVE US ASSISTANCE COULD BE OF VALUE IN DEVELOPING THAI REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.

5. EDUCATION: THE THAI CENTRAL NARCOTICS BOARD SPONSORS AN EDUCATION PROGRAM IN BANGKOK SCHOOLS AND ALSO RUNS TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS AND POLICE WHO WILL WORK IN DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION. THE CNB WAS ALSO INSTRUMENTAL IN ORGANIZING A LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM OF DRUG EDUCATION THROUGHOUT THAILAND. FROM TIME TO TIME, CNB HAS REQUESTED US ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT ITS ACTIVITIES. RECENTLY THE CNB REQUESTED US ASSISTANCE IN MAKING COPIES OF AN EDUCATIONAL FILM ON ADDICTION PRODUCED BY TECHNICAL SCHOOL STUDENTS. USIS HAS BEEN ABLE TO FUND THE MAKING OF THREE COPIES. WE FEEL THAT THERE ARE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCH SUPPORT, NOT WITHIN USIS FUNDING CAPABILITY.

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6. TRAINING: THERE IS A NEED FOR MORE TRAINED PERSONNEL WORKING IN THE FIELD OF DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, ESPECIALLY IN THE PROVINCIAL TREATMENT CENTERS. IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE US TO HELP SET UP A TRAINING CENTER FOR THOSE WHO WILL WORK IN DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMS. ANOTHER IDEA, PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED BY DR. AROON, IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER IN BANGKOK. DR. AROON BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE CHEAPER AND MORE PRODUCTIVE TO TRAIN THOSE SOUTH EAST ASIANS

WORKING IN DRUG ABUSE WITHIN THE REGION WHERE THE PROBLEMS ARE  
SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THEIR OWN COUNTRIES.

7. PREVENTION: WE PLAN TO LOOK INTO THE AREA OF PREVENTIVE  
PROGRAMS IN MORE DETAIL WITH THE CENTRAL NARCOTICS BOARD AND  
WISH TO WITHOLD JUDGEMENT ON THE POSSIBILITIES IN THIS AREA.

8. RESEARCH: THERE ARE A NUMBER OF TOPICS WHICH LEND  
THEMSELVES TO US-SUPPORTED RESEARCH BY THAIS. FOR EXAMPLE, SMOKING  
HEROIN IS A COMMON FORM OF DRUG USAGE IN THAILAND, AND RESEARCH  
ON THE EFFECTS OF SMOKING AS OPPOSED TO INJECTING HEROIN WOULD BE  
VALUABLE. SELECTIVE US GRANTS FOR RESEARCH BY THAI PROFESSIONLS  
WOULD NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF ADDICTION BUT WOULD  
ALSO ENCOURAGE MORE INTEREST IN THIS AREA WITHEN THE THAI MEDICAL  
PROFESSION.

9. WE BELIEVE U.S. SUPPORT TO PROGRAMS OUTLINED ABOVE WOULD BE  
MOST USEFUL AND WOULD REINFORCE OUR EFFORTS IN FIELDS OF ENFORCEMENT  
AND INCOME SUBSTITUTION. WHEN DECISION IS MADE TO FUND DRUG ABUSE  
PREVENTION ACTIVITIES, WE WILL INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THAI  
OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE WHAT SPECIFIC PROJECTS WOULD MEET THE  
CRITERIA SET DOWN IN THE REFTEL. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.  
MASTERS  
UNQUOTE  
KISSINGER

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